

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Petroleum Pipe-lines in Albania

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1. In September 1943, petroleum conduits existed between Kucove-Vlone-Krionero (8-inch pipes), and on the Patos-Fieri (12-inch pipes) line. Pumping stations were located in Kucove, Patos, Roskoveci, Fieri and Skrofotine. Neither of the two conduits was in operation between September 1943 and August 1946 due to heavy damages received during World War II, particularly to the first pipe-line, which in many places was totally destroyed. Repairs to these conduits were begun in August 1946, and completed in October 1947.
2. The pumping stations were also damaged. The pumping station in Skrofotine has since been totally repaired, and is now in operation, whereas the station in Roskoveci, which was totally destroyed, has been abandoned, as the petroleum can now be pumped from Kucove directly to Fieri.
3. There was originally a post at the Fieri pumping station where the petroleum from Patos and that from Kucove were mixed, as their specific gravity was not the same, and the transmission of the petroleum in its original state to Vlone over waterways was not feasible. During World War II this station was destroyed, and later on was not repaired. Since the normal flow of petroleum to Vlone could not be handled through one pipe, it was decided to build a new conduit from Fieri to Vlone. Plans on the new conduit were begun in September 1948, and completed in October 1949. According to this plan the new conduit will have pipes 12 3/4 inches in width. Digging was begun in February 1949; the pipes arrived in Durres from the USSR at about the same time.
4. The new conduit runs almost parallel to the old one, with the exception of the part leading from the Mifoli bridge on the Vojuse River as far as two kilometers below the Skrofotine station, where it turns west from the old conduit: it does not cross the roads, and is some 400 meters shorter. Both conduits cross the Mifoli bridge on the Vojuse River, the old one along the east and the new one along the west banks; this situation renders the pipe-line particularly vulnerable to sabotage. At approximately 800 meters south of Fieri, both conduits cross the Gjanice River, and while the first crosses a bridge specifically built for this purpose, the other crosses under the river bed at a depth of 1 1/2 meters, as the bridge over which the first conduit passes is not strong enough to support both conduits. The new conduit throughout its entire length is located 1-2 1/2 meters underground. All other passes along the

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smaller streams are of reinforced concrete. The pipes were obtained from the Soviet Union without any external cover, but before the pipe was installed in the ground it was wrapped up in jute and tarred. [redacted] the pipes have already been installed in the ground, and the joints between the pipes sealed. It was anticipated that the work would be completed by the end of 1950.

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5. Throughout the entire length of the conduit, at distances of from 1,500 to 2,200 meters, concrete control stations have been placed; these are to be equipped with apparatus for pressure control. All these special parts were to have arrived from the Soviet Union, but so far have not arrived.
6. Because of the larger circumference of the new conduit in the pumping stations of Fieri and Skrofotina, new pumps will have to be installed; these will have a pressure of 45 atmospheres (sic), and these have also been ordered from the Soviet Union.
7. The main petroleum reservoirs are located in Krionero and were completely destroyed during World War II; [redacted] the reservoirs [redacted] located in Mezzovun (sic) [redacted] had been built in 1943. They are underground, and are constructed of reinforced concrete. A special conduit was built and installed leading from the port of Vione to these reservoirs. In addition, a special pumping station was built there. When the reservoirs in Krionero were repaired in 1946, this new pumping station in Mezzovun was no longer used; it has, however, been conserved in a good state of repair, and can consequently serve when the need arises. A separate pipe leads from this new conduit and is connected with the station in Mezzovun. The new conduit opens into the reservoirs in Krionero, directly from the top.

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